

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 1-14 and 18-24. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 15, 19, and 25-26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of cancelled claim 15. No new matter has been added. Applicants have submitted concurrently herewith a Request for Continuing Examination to allow the Examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement also filed concurrently herewith.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20-24, as amended, will be pending.

There appear to be inconsistencies between the Office Action Summary and the Detailed Action. Specifically, in the summary, the Examiner has indicated rejection of claims 15, 17 and 25-26, allowance of claims 1-14 and 18-24 and an objection to claim 16; on the other hand, the detailed action includes rejections of claims 15, 19 and 25-26, allowance of claims 1-14 and 20-24, and an objection to claim 16. No mention of claims 17-18 is made in the detailed action. After reviewing the file, Applicants presume that the Examiner intended to reject claims 15, 19, and 25-26, allow claims 1-14, 17-18, and 20-24, and object to claim 16. Accordingly, claims 15, 19, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,835,003 to Schlesinger. Claim 16 has been objected to as allowable, but dependent on a rejected base claim.

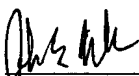
Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims render the rejections in view of Schlesinger, and the objection to claim 16, moot and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYER BROWN ROWE & MAW LLP

By: 

John E. Mauk
Registration No. 54,579
Direct No. (202) 263-3255

Paul L. Sharer
Registration No. 36,004
Direct No. (202) 263-3340

PLS/JEM
Intellectual Property Group
1909 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101
(202) 263-3000 Telephone
(202) 263-3300 Facsimile

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